

banned drugs and use this loophole to prevent law enforcement from removing these drugs from circulation.

In addition, the SITSA Act outlaws 13 synthetic fentynals that have been identified by the Drug Enforcement Administration as an immediate threat to public health.

Together, by passing this legislation, we can prevent synthetic drugs from, one, being imported into this country; two, being routinely mixed with heroin in fatal doses; and, three, being sold over the counter in head shops and bodegas throughout this country.

These efforts can't bring Victor Orlando Woolson back. They can't bring Morgan Brittany Axe back and so many others from our district and our country, but this is a start in the right direction to stop this terrible epidemic.

Every hour in this country, five people die from heroin overdose—every hour, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year. We have got to stop it. We have got to keep pushing.

I am proud to be part of the legislation, and I am proud that the Congress is acting in such a meaningful manner.

#### AMERICA MUST REMAIN A SAFE HAVEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, the Trump administration and its attacks on families seeking asylum are in full force.

The Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, just announced this week that victims of domestic violence and gang violence will no longer qualify for asylum here in the United States. Victims of domestic violence and victims of gang violence will no longer be eligible for asylum, refuge, here in the United States.

This isn't about going after the perpetrators. What the Attorney General is doing is targeting the victims—not the perpetrators, but the victims—of domestic violence and of gang violence. Meanwhile, the administration continues to engage in the sickening policy of taking children, babies, away from their mothers and their fathers, just like this woman from Guatemala.

Mr. Speaker, this is an ugly hour for our Nation, uglier than we have seen in a very, very long time. As a father myself, my heart aches when I hear the stories of toddlers screaming for their parents who are sitting in a cell within earshot. If that isn't psychological torture, I don't know what is.

The stories my colleagues have recounted from the visits to detention centers are simply gut-wrenching. Any one of my Republican colleagues who supports these abominable policies should be ashamed.

Put yourself in the shoes of these people. They have just ventured hundreds, if not thousands, of miles to save their lives and to save the lives of their children. They have left everything they have known behind; every person

they have left behind because it is no longer safe to stay there.

They arrive in the world's greatest nation seeking refuge and asylum and turn to American authorities, willingly, and apply for that asylum. And what happens? Their children are ripped from their arms screaming and crying, all because they tried to save their children from a treacherous fate.

The Republican Party used to stand for and talk a lot about family values. Republicans of all stripes would tout it over and over again: family values, family values, family values.

There is no value in ripping a child from the arms of their mother. It is inhumane.

There is no value in keeping children alone in a steel cage without the love of their family. It is cruel.

There is no value in traumatizing children who cannot fend for themselves. It is torture.

My colleagues, America is asking, the world is asking: Where are your family values now? Where is your outrage? Where is your compassion? Where is your courage?

They don't need to do this to these families.

And don't let them fool you: the law does not require this, not one bit. This is a choice that is being made by President Trump—not the law, a choice—and it must stop. America must be on the side of children and families. America must remain a safe haven for those seeking safety and refuge.

Last week, 10 of my colleagues and I sent a letter to the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies on this reprehensible action. We called on them to cease and desist with their so-called zero-tolerance policy and reunite separated parents and mothers with their children.

We made very clear that we expected an immediate response; and surprise, we have gotten no response. They have offered no response to how cruel they are being, no response to the harm that they are causing to these children.

So I will stand in solidarity with these families. I will stand in solidarity with those fleeing violence and seeking asylum. I will stand up and I will shout out against these agencies until they recognize that these practices are unacceptable.

Democrats will keep fighting until the disgusting practice of taking children away from their mothers ends.

#### RECOGNIZING VINCENT GONZALEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of our community in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who was recently honored as a Red Cross hero.

Last New Year's Eve, Vincent Gonzalez of Levittown sprang into action following a serious accident in which

an impaired driver crashed his vehicle into the home of his neighbors Jim and Mary Albright.

Vincent provided immediate assistance to Jim, who was seriously injured and was bleeding heavily from a sustained head wound.

For the rest of that night, Vincent comforted Mary, who had to face the devastating reality of an injured husband, a damaged home, and the death of the family's beloved yellow lab because of this horrific incident.

Today, Jim, who is fully recovered, refers to Vincent as his and Mary's "guardian angel." I would like to honor Vincent for his quick thinking and selfless actions. I encourage all of my constituents to follow his lead and to look out for each other in times of crisis.

#### RECOGNIZING LOGAN KILLEEN

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize a heroic young man who is already teaching our community in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, the values of respect and compassion.

Logan Killeen of Fairless Hills was born with Treacher Collins syndrome, a rare disorder which affects facial bones and structure. Recently, Logan has undergone several surgeries to alleviate his condition, and he often wears a headband to assist with his hearing.

In the fall, Logan will be starting kindergarten at Oxford Valley Elementary School. That school recently held an assembly in his honor to teach fellow students that, even though Logan may look different than they do, he is just like them.

I commend Logan for his bravery, and I also commend Oxford Valley Elementary School as well. I want to commend both for their willingness to spread kindness to their peers and to our community.

I would also like to recognize Logan's parents, Matt and Nicole Killeen, for raising such a fine young man and for all that they do for individuals facing this challenge.

□ 1030

#### GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today yet again because Congress continues to do nothing as Americans die from the scourge of gun violence.

It is just over 2 years from the tragedy at Pulse nightclub that claimed 49 lives and changed hundreds of lives forward; 1 year since mass shootings in Baltimore, Maryland, and University City, Missouri, that claimed 2 lives and wounded 6 others; nearly 1 year since the Republican majority whip was shot just a few miles from here preparing for the annual Congressional Baseball Game; and I will add, this past weekend, 9 more wounded in Chicago and over 30 shot.